was found on the deceased's person tied up in his waist band. Such an occurrence was the first of its kind in the annals of the Department since its organisation. All efforts to trace the real murderers having failed, the stolen money had to be written off with the sanction of Government.

Services of officers.

Services of officers.

160. In the transfer of Mr. G. M. Ryan, Deputy Conservator of Forests, to the Northern Circle and in the deputation of Mr. B. H. Dalal, Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests to foreign service in the Rajpipla State, the Sind Circle has lost the services of two intelligent and zealous officers.

161. Mr. G K. Betham, Divisional Forest Officer, Jerruck, being new to the Province, had just sufficient time after his arrival in January 1897 to make himself pretty well acquainted with the forests of his charge.

162. The arduous duties pertaining to his dual charge, requiring more than ordinary exertion, Mr. Napier has performed satisfactorily. No little credit is due for the tact and judgment he displayed in effecting the settlement of two long-standing boundary disputes in the Jerruck Division.

163. The management of the Naushahro Division by Mr. B. G. Deshpande has met with my approval.

164. Mr. Shaukiram, Divisional Forest Officer, Sukkur, whose reputation as a hard-working officer has been already established, has during the year under report earned my special thanks for the creditable manner in which he has supervised and carried out the cultural operations in almost all the ranges of his Division.

165. Special mention of the following Range Forest Officers has been made in the Divisional reports:—

Rangers.	*Foresters.*
1. Metharam Deumal.	5. Mangharam Dayaram.
2. Bulchand Parumal.	6. Kauromal Nihalsing.
3. Dalpatrai Jethanand.	7. Tekchand Kevalram.
4. Vishindas Ram Baksh.	8. Bulchand Hasomal.
	9. Lakhasing Nihalchand.
	10. Dayaram Neribdas.
	11. Kundanmal Jhamrai.

166. The Circle and the Divisional office establishments, there can be no doubt, are overworked, and if relief is not afforded soon, some of the members will break down in health completely. The Clerks have all, without an exception, been reported on favourably by the officers under whom they are serving, and it gives me pleasure once again to bring to the notice of Government the care and ability shown by the Head Accountant in the Circle office, Mr. Parmanand Hirdaram, in carrying on the Account work, and the marked intelligence and industry displayed by the Head Clerk, Mr. Parmanand Udharam, in the correspondence branch, work in which is increasing day by day.

General Remarks.

Tour of inspection.

167. In the recess season, I visited Hyderabad and Sukkur, and was absent from head-quarters from the 20th July to the 1st August 1896. During my stay at both these places, besides inspecting the cultural operations in the forests in their vicinity, I tried to sell the coupes of the Hyderabad, Naushahro and Sukkur Divisions, but the tenders received on the dates fixed were so low that they had to be rejected, and consultations were held with the Divisional Forest Officers concerned as to the best manner of breaking through the combination which was apparent amongst the purchasers.

168. I left Karachi on my cold weather tour on the 8th November, proceeding to Hyderabad, where I made a halt of five days and was successful in disposing of the remaining coupe and other contracts of the year. Leaving Hyderabad on the 14th, I marched through the Miani and Rano Ranges, daily inspecting the timber and other operations on the way with the Divisional Forest Officer, and crossed over to the right bank at Amri on the 6th December, and the camp moved to Sehwan on the 9th. In the Sehwan Range, I stayed up to the 23rd, to minutely examine the results of the cultural operations undertaken in high-lying land with the aid of cereal crops, and was pleased to see that they were encouraging. The office opened on the 4th January 1897 at Sukkur, having marched to that place during the Christmas holidays from Dadu.

169. After inspecting the excellent natural and artificial reproduction of the year in the forests round about Sukkur, camp was moved to Mari, where the outlines of a working plan for the Rohri fuel reserves were discussed and decided on with Mr. O. H. L. Napier, the Divisional Forest Officer. Keeping along the left bank and marching rapidly through the Sadhuja, Ghotki and Mirpur Ranges, in which extensive cultural operation had been carried on during the preceding inundation season, I crossed over to the right bank of the river from Tando Nijabat on the 27th, and, after visiting the forests of the Kashmor and Abad Ranges, reached Shikarpur on the 8th February. The Kot Sultan plantation was carefully examined on the 9th, and it was noticed that, although the unprecedented frosts of the year had checked somewhat the young babul growth, its condition was on the whole satisfactory.

170. Leaving the Sukkur Division on the 13th February, the forests of the Naushahro Abro Range were next inspected, in which the damage by browsers unhappily appeared to have not been checked to the extent I should like to see, and I arrived at Akil near Larkana on the night of the 17th. Here, boats were procured to enable me to move faster, and with the office I went down stream in them, halting wherever necessary to inspect the forests in the Kandiaro and Sehwan Ranges on the left bank as I passed to Butho forest, which was reached on the 28th February.

171. After spending a fortnight in the very important forests of the Unarpur Range, I commenced the inspection of the Jerruck Division with the Veran Range on the 15th March in company of Mr. G. K. Betham, the Divisional Forest Officer, and noticed with satisfaction that the reproduction in the coupes exploited in the preceding working season left nothing to be desired, and was excellent. The Tatta Range was next examined, in which my attention had to be devoted to the selection of coupes for the coming year. Crossing the river by the steam ferry at the Baghyar Canal mouth on the 31st March, I passed by quick stages through the Shahbandar, Penah, Mulchand and Katyar Ranges, and returned to Karachi on the 15th April.

Examination of Divisional records.

172. The records and accounts of all Divisional Forest Officers were examined during the year, and no serious mistakes were discovered.

F. R. DASAI,
Conservator of Forests,
Sind Circle.

Sind Forest Circle Office,
Camp Miani, 9th November 1897.